

CLAIMS

1. A packet configured to transmit information via a network, comprising a header error portion and a payload error portion.

2. The packet according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises a fiber optic network.

3. The packet according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises a SONET/SDH fiber optic network.

4. The packet according to claim 1, wherein (i) said header error portion is configured to store error check information of a header section of said packet and (ii) said payload error portion is configured to store error check information of a payload area.

5. The packet according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of nodes coupled to the network, wherein one or more of said plurality of nodes is an upstream node configured to transfer said packet and one or more of said plurality of nodes is a

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downstream node configured to identify a faulty upstream node of said one or more upstream nodes..

6. The packet according to claim 5, wherein said one or more downstream nodes is further configured to perform a discard of said faulty upstream node upon detecting an error.

7. The packet according to claim 5, wherein each of said plurality of nodes is configured to determine a data error in response to said header error portion.

8. The packet according to claim 7, further comprising a first address portion comprising one or more layer 2 addresses and a second address portion comprising one or more layer 3 addresses.

9. The packet according to claim 8, further comprising a data identifier configured to identify a data type.

10. The packet according to claim 8, further comprising a data payload.

11. The packet according to claim 1, further comprising an address portion configured to store one or more addresses.

12. The packet according to claim 1, further comprising a control word configured to control said packet.

13. The packet according to claim 1, further comprising an identity configured to identify a destination node.

14. The packet according to claim 1, further comprising a label portion comprising one or more words.

15. The packet according to claim 17, wherein said label portion comprises a MPLS label portion.

16. An apparatus comprising:

one or more nodes coupled to a network, each node configured to receive and/or transmit one or more of a plurality of packets, each comprising a first portion configured to store payload error information and a second portion configured to store header error information.

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17. A method for transmitting a plurality of packets between one or more nodes comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving said plurality of packets at each of said one or more nodes; and

5 (B) transmitting said plurality of packets at each of said one or more nodes, each packet comprising a first portion configured to store payload error information and a second portion configured to store header error information.

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